

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 290910Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8537

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USUN NEW YORK 417

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3580

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PU, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE REACTION TO PAIGC DECLARATION OF  
INDEPENDENCE OF GUINEA-BISSAU

REF: A-172 OF SEPT. 11, 1973

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SUMMARY: AFTER HOLDING BACK FOR TWO DAYS PORTUGUESE PRESS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE PUBLICIZED PAIGC'S UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR PORTUGUESE GUINEA WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY SEEKING TO DOWNPLAY ITS SIGNIFICANCE. PORTUGUESE COMMENTATORS HAVE DWELT ON THEIR CONTENTION THAT THERE ARE NO "LIBERATED AREAS." SECGEN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TOLD CHARGE THAT PORTUGUESE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO WORK OUT AN ACCOMMODATION WITH PAIGC THRU SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT. GOP IS CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE STAMPEDE OF RECOGNITION WHICH COULD SWEEP UP COUNTRIES LIKE SWEDEN. END SUMMARY

1. PORTUGUESE MEDIA AND GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN IGNORED PAIGC'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR GUINEA-BISSAU SEPT. 26 AND 27 ALTHOUGH NEWS OF THE EVENT WAS WIDELY KNOWN IN LISBON SHORTLY AFTER IT HAPPENED. SEPT. 28 MORNING PRESS GAVE PROMINENT, EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO GOP'S VERSION OF SITUATION IN GUINEA, PRINTING ALSO NEWS REPORTS FROM WIRE SERVICES ABOUT PAIGC'S DECLARATION. MOST SIGNIFICANT WAS INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL SPINOLA CARRIED ON FRONT PAGE OF LARGE CIRCULATION DIARIO DE NOTICIAS. SPINOLA, RECENTLY RETIRED C-IN-C AND GOVERNOR OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA, RIDICULED BOTH FACT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF UDI. GENERAL BLASTED TALK OF "LIBERATED AREAS," RECALLING MANY VISITS HE AND NUMEROUS VISITORS HAD MADE TO EVERY ONE, INCLUDING MEDINA DO BOE, NEW "CAPITAL". SPINOLA STATED BOE REGION INHOSPITABLE AND VIRTUALLY UNINHABITED, STATING ALSO THAT PAIGC USES NAME MEDINA DO BOE FOR ITS BASE AT KAMBERA, ABOUT 10 KILOMETERS INSIDE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA. SPINOLA PREDICTS PAIGC WILL CONDUCT GUIDED TOURS TO THIS BASE NOTING THAT IT PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR FOREIGNERS TO DETERMINE WHAT COUNTRY THEY ARE IN WHEN THEY ARE IN THAT AREA.

2. SPINOLA SAID IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR PAIGC TO OPERATE ANY KIND OF STRUCTURE WITHIN PORTUGUESE GUINEA. EVEN AN UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE IS IMPROBABLE, GIVEN FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORY, SPINOLA PREDICTED THAT SOME AFRICAN, ASIAN AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD RECOGNIZE THE NEW STATE BUT THAT THIS WOULD CHANGE NOTHING, SINCE THOSE COUNTRIES HAVE LONG CONTENDED THAT THE PAIGC IS THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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THOSE WHO WILL HELP THE PAIGC IN FUTURE ARE THOSE WHICH HAVE HELPED IT IN PAST. UDI, SAID SPINOLA, IS PART OF THE PAIGC'S PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AND SHOULD NOT UPSET PEOPLE. WITHIN THE PROVINCE ITSELF, DECLARATION WILL HAVE NO IMPACT.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE SEPT. 27 FOREIGN MINISTRY SECGEN CALVEY DE MAGALHAES REVEALED CONCERN THAT COUNTRIES LIKE SWEDEN MIGHT RECOGNIZE AN INDEPENDENT GUINEA-

BISSAU. (MINISTRY HAS RECENTLY CONDUCTED STUDY OF CRITERIA WHICH OTHER GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING USG, APPLY WHEN CONSIDERING RECOGNITION OF NEW STATE.) CALVET VOLUNTEERED THAT PORTUGUESE HAD MANY CONTACTS WITH SENEGALESE GOVERNMENT WITH A VIEW TO WORKING OUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION FOR PORTUGUESE GUINEA WITH PAIGC, BUT THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN SABOTAGED BY BORDER INCIDENTS PROVOKED BY PARTIES HOSTILE TO ANY GOP-PAIGC ACCOMMODATION. RENEWED CONTACT ALONG SAME LINES IS "IN TRAIN" RIGHT NOW. CALVET ATTRIBUTED RECENT BREAK IN RELATIONS BETWEEN SENEGAL AND GUINEA-CONAKRY IN PART TO MANEUVERS OF SEKOU TOURE AIMED AT CREATING AN "INDEPENDENT" GUINEA-BISSAU UNDER PAIGC WHICH TOURE CONTROLS.

4. GEN. BETTENCOURT RODRIGUES EXPECTED TO DEPART LISBON SEPT 29 TO TAKE OVER AS C-IN-C AND GOVERNOR OF GUINEA.  
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